

We continue to hope and pray for the safe return of all Americans who are in Haiti, particularly our neighbors in New Jersey. Last week we welcomed home a church group from Mercer County that arrived in Haiti before the earthquake. Yet, an estimated 5,000 Americans are still missing. Sadly this includes a Hopewell Township resident, Christine Gianacaci, who was in Haiti with a group of students from her college, Lynn University. I continue to talk with Christine's parents, John and Jean, who have been brave and resilient throughout this distressing ordeal. I am working with those in Haiti – including our military and State Department – to ensure that a thorough rescue operation continues.

The outpouring of support by Americans for the recovery effort in Haiti is inspiring though not surprising – the American people time and time again have demonstrated tremendous generosity in response to tragedy. The millions of dollars in private donations have been crucial to the relief effort underway and that will last for weeks, months, and maybe years. This week the House and Senate voted to offer immediate benefit to Americans who make charitable contributions to aid the region by allowing individuals to claim any donations – made by the end of February – to the relief effort as an itemized deduction on their [2009 tax returns](#), instead of waiting to claim it on their 2010 return. The bill, which President Obama is expected to sign, would also make clear that the many taxpayers making a charitable contribution to victims of the Haiti earthquake through a text message will be able to use their cell phone bill as supporting documentation when claiming a charitable donation.

### **Town Halls on Monday and Tuesday**

As your representative, I must hear your concerns so I can address your needs, study your issues, and get solutions that ensure fairness and promote opportunity. I welcome you to contact me at any time with concerns or questions. Another way we can stay in touch is through town hall meetings, which I hold throughout the year. I will be hosting two next week.

On Monday, January 25 at 7 p.m., I will host an in-person town hall in Marlboro at the [Marlboro Memorial Middle School](#)

. The school is located at 71 Nolan Road in Marlboro. On Tuesday, January 26 at 7:45 p.m, I will hold a live telephone town hall meeting. To join the call, please sign up on my [homepage](#)

, and you will receive a call Tuesday night. If you are unable to participate at that time, you will be able to hear a recording of the town hall on my website, and of course you can

[contact](#)

me at any time with any concerns or questions.

## Honoring our Intelligence Officers

On December 30, seven Clandestine Services officers were set to meet with what they believed was an al Qaeda informant at a base in Khost, Afghanistan. When he arrived, he detonated a bomb strapped to his vest. All seven CIA employees [were killed](#) .

This week, the House passed a [resolution](#) honoring these seven CIA officers. As [chairman](#) of the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel and a long-time member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I am well aware of the risk our forward-deployed Clandestine Services employees face on a daily basis. Our intelligence officers are our first line of security, even before the military. These seven employees gave their lives in the line of duty, and our thoughts and prayers remain with their loved ones.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT  
Member of Congress

P.S. Just a reminder: I always want to hear from you, but please don't reply to this e-mail. Instead, please email me through my website at [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov) , or call me at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT (1-877-874-4658) to let me know what's on your mind. Please also note that you may unsubscribe from this list by clicking on the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of this email.